

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130270

LIMDIS CINCLANT AND COMMACH FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT PONTA DELGADA 0172 SENT ACTIONSECSTATE AND

LISBON DTD P 022245Z MAY 75

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0172

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: GOP SECURITY MEASURES IN AZORES

REF: (A) PONTA DELGADA 143 (B) STATE 127525

1. REF A REPORTED SHIPMENT 12 (1 DOZEN) MILITARY TRUCKS AND
JEEPS TO SAO MIGUEL, NOT RPT NOT 112 VEHICLES. WE HAVE RECENTLY
BEEN INFORMED BY FLA SOURCE (ANTONIO GOMES DEMENESES) THAT
HE BELIEVES TRUCKS SENT TO REPLACE OLD EQUIPMENT, NOT AS
PREPARATION FOR LATER TRANSFER COPCON FORCES. THOUGH OTHER
SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT COPCON TROOPS WILL BE SENT
IN NEAR FUTURE, WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THIS
TRUE.

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2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES SINCE BEGINNING FLA ACTIVITIES (CAR BURNINGS AND WALL PAINTING) HAS BEEN BRIEF INITIATION ROAD BLOCKS, CAR SEARCHES, AND PATROLS BY ARMED PATROLS AT NIGHT. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY PHASED OUT DURING LAST WEEK. OTHERWISE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF INCREASED SECURITY ON SAO MIGUEL. COMUSFORAZ REPORTS SIMILIAR SITUATION EXISTS ON TERCEIRA.

3. COMMENT: APPARENT LACK CONCERN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PUZZLING. GOMES DEMENESES CHOOSES BELIEVE THAT GOP INACTIVITY INDICATION LOCAL AUTHORITIES SYMPATHIZE WITH FLA AND MISREPRESENTING SEPERATIST THREAT TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. HE CLAIMS THAT SOME LOCAL AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING MIRANDA, HAVE VIRTUALLY LAID BARE TO FLA ELEMENTS THE INADEQUACIES OF PRESENT SECURITY ARRENGEMENTS AND INTERPRET THIS AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO STAGE COUP. ONLY OTHER EXPLANATION WOULD SEEM BE THAT LOCAL MILITARY COMMAND RADICALLY UNDERESTIMATING FLA COMMITMENT AND/OR THAT PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN LISBON PRECLUDES SENDING TROOPS HERE AT THIS TIME.

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